

National Victim Assistance Standards Consortium
Standards for Victim Assistance Programs and Providers

Scope of Services

Ethical Standard 1.1

The victim assistance provider understands his or her legal responsibilities, limitations, and the implications of her or his actions within the service delivery setting, and performs duties in accord with laws, regulations, policies, and legislated rights of persons served.

Ethical Standard 1.2

The victim assistance provider accurately represents his or her professional title, qualifications, and/or credentials in relationships with persons served and in public advertising.

Ethical Standard 1.3

The victim assistance provider maintains a high standard of professional conduct.

Ethical Standard 1.4

The victim assistance provider achieves and maintains a high level of professional competence.

Ethical Standard 1.5

The victim assistance provider who provides a service for a fee informs a person served about the fee at the initial session or meeting.

Coordinating within the Community

Ethical Standard 2.1

The victim assistance provider conducts relationships with colleagues and other professionals in such a way as to promote mutual respect, confidence, and improvement of services.

Ethical Standard 2.2

The victim assistance provider shares knowledge and encourages proficiency in victim assistance among colleagues and other

professionals.

Ethical Standard 2.3

The victim assistance provider serves the public interest by contributing to the improvement of systems that impact victims of crime.

Direct Services

Ethical Standard 3.1

The victim assistance provider respects and attempts to protect the victim's civil rights.

Ethical Standard 3.2

The victim assistance provider recognizes the interests of the person served as a primary responsibility.

Ethical Standard 3.3

The victim assistance provider refrains from behaviors that communicate victim blame, suspicion regarding victim accounts of the crime, condemnation for past behavior, or other judgmental, anti-victim sentiments.

Ethical Standard 3.4

The victim assistance provider respects the victim's right to self-determination.

Ethical Standard 3.5

The victim assistance provider preserves the confidentiality of information provided by the person served or acquired from other sources before, during, and after the course of the professional relationship.

Ethical Standard 3.6

The victim assistance provider avoids conflicts of interest and discloses any possible conflict to the program or person served as well as to prospective programs or persons served.

Ethical Standard 3.7

The victim assistance provider terminates a professional relationship with a victim when the victim is not likely to benefit from continued services.

Ethical Standard 3.8

The victim assistance provider does not engage in personal relationships with persons served which exploit professional trust or could impair the victim assistance provider's objectivity and professional judgement.

Ethical Standard 3.9

The victim assistance provider does not discriminate against a victim or another staff member on the basis of race/ethnicity, language, sex/gender, sexual orientation, (dis)ability, social class, economic status, education, marital status, religious affiliation, residency, or HIV status.

Ethical Standard 3.10

The victim assistance provider furnishes opportunities for colleague victim assistance providers to seek appropriate services when traumatized by a criminal event or client interaction.

Administration and Evaluation

Ethical Standard 4.1

The victim assistance provider reports to appropriate authorities the conduct of any colleague or other professional (including self) that constitutes mistreatment of a person served or brings the profession into dishonor.

List of standards taken from:

DeHart, D.D. (2003) *National Victim Assistance Standards Consortium: Standards for Victim Assistance Programs and Providers*. Columbia, SC: Center for Child and Family Studies, University of South Carolina.